

THE CALL



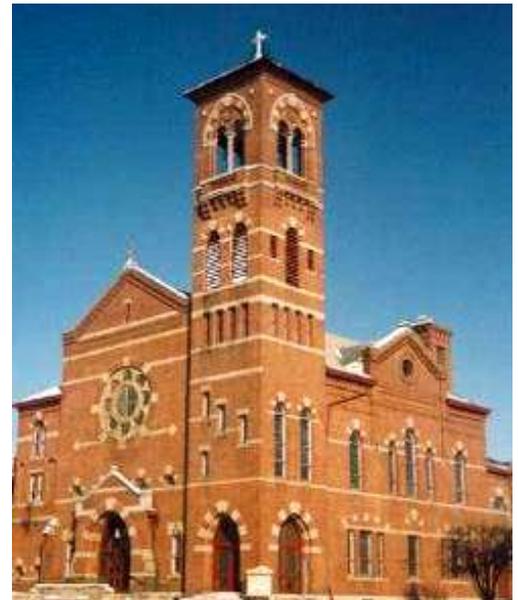
Church Meetings	
COMMUNION	December 4th
Trustee Meeting— 6:00 pm	December 12th
<i>Family Faith Night</i> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> Dinner—5:30 p.m. Classes—6:30 p.m.	December 7h 14th
NO FFN or Bible Study	December 21, 28
Session Meeting— 5:30 pm	December 20h
PW Bible Study and Friendship & Talent	December 14th
Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:30	December 7th, 14th,
Congregational Meetings	December 11th & 18th

PASTOR BOB'S REFLECTIONS

For the faithful Jews in Palestine over 2000 years ago, there did not seem to be much hope. They were ruled by the Roman Empire, and no prophet had spoken in close to 400 years. They had been waiting and hoping for a long time. Yet there still was hope within them. Is there a human emotion that is deeper than hope?

Then the birth of a baby was announced, a baby who would be called the Christ child or the Messiah. The whole world was transformed. The memories of the prophets of old came back to mind and hope rose again. The people of Israel began to remember the names describing what this Messiah would be like and do. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Messiah, Redeemer, King of Kings, and Immanuel. This Advent, I invite you to reflect on these names and what they mean to you as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, we have found the Messiah.” (John 1:41). Advent asks us to remember Israel’s centuries of waiting for the Messiah, the anointed one chosen to free and redeem us. When it feels like we have been waiting for God to act in



our lives and in our world, Advent says there is something worth waiting for. Our hope is not in vain. As surely as God came to those in the stable in Bethlehem, God will come to us.

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6). From the time of the early church, Christians have claimed Jesus was the Messiah anticipated by the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures. The four royal titles from Isaiah tell us something about what kind of king they were expecting. The new king will have extraordinary wisdom and foresight. The new king will have power that transforms people and relationships. The new king will be with us from generation to generation until the end of the

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DECEMBER SERVERS

LAY LITURGIST: Joe Curran
Dave Schlemmer (18)

GREETER:
LARRY CLARK

USHERS: DENNIS & SUSAN
WILSON

REFRESHMENTS:
Reneé McClintic

SUNDAY COUNTERS:
DENNIS Shepherd &
Marilyn Woods



Women's Fellowship

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14th for the final PW Bible Study. Pastor Bob will lead the last lesson of 2016 with *"Eternity, The World that is to Come."*

FRIENDSHIP & TALENT

We plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. (early) for Friendship and Talent, as we are serving holiday cheese ball and hot cider before the noon meal. We'll eat lunch at the usual time-12 noon. There will be no business meeting, however, Polly Matlock will give devotions.



P.W. and Friendship and Talent will not meet in January or February. On March 8, 2017 the meetings will resume.

Coffee Hour Servers for 2017
Please note the names and months.

Jan.-Polly Matlock
Feb.-Linda Simpson
Mar.-Marilyn Woods
April- Terri Pleak,
May-Kathy Denny
June- Jayne Schlemmer
July- Judy Rust
August- Michelle Anderson
Sept.- Phyllis Hamilton
Oct.- Doreen Wilkison
Nov.- Susan Wilson
Dec.- Renee McClintic.

A big thank you to all these ladies for serving as coffee hour servers for 2016.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's bible study will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Gary and Kathy Miller, 1805 N. Tyrel Ave. Look for Scripture announcements in each week's eCall All men are welcome

Pastor Bob's Reflections —Continued from page 1

age. The new king will bring Shalom, the fullness and wholeness of life seeking the welfare of all people.

"The Virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel, which means, God with us." (Matthew 1:23). God is not far away, distant and unconcerned. God shares the experiences of our lives. God hurts when we hurt. God laughs when we laugh. God cries when we cry. God has experienced all our feelings from pain to joy. God promises to always be with us.

This Advent, as we head to birth of a child humble and lying in a manger, let's take time to reflect on the names, the attributes, and the characteristics the baby brings into the world. As we prepare for the coming of the precious Christ child, we are called to look at our faith and lives to see what characteristics people say we have as we seek to live out our faith as children of God. We are also called to remember who created us, loves us, forgives us, and gives us hope as we travel our journeys of faith.

Christ is coming, and with him comes the promise that no matter where we find ourselves, the Messiah, the Redeemer, the King of Kings, Immanuel will set us free to continue our journey as children of God.

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it

Bob



Prayer Focus For December

Remembering Christmas

The first Christmas came about because Christ gave a gift of self. This is the greatest gift that will ever be known. Christmas should be a time of remembering. First, we should remember our Lord. If Christ dwells therein we will have joy and happiness all year, not just during the holidays.

We also need to remember Christmas as a time for giving—giving to those in need spiritually and physically. If we were to set aside a gift to missions, we will be more careful of what we spend on family and friends.

The greatest gift we can give to anyone is to tell her or him about Christ. If each of us were to tell one person about Jesus during the month of December, think of what a revival would spread over the world.

“And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.”

Luke 1:14

Doreen Wilkison, Care of Parish

Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas is the season of giving and a time to **open our hearts to God’s** love and grace. During Advent a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering is a way to lift up those who have served the church; ministers, missionaries, other church workers, and their families. It also funds the Assistance Program of the Board of Pension and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church USA.

A Christmas Joy Offering envelope is in your box of giving envelopes. Also, envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletin. We will receive the Christmas Joy Offerings on Sunday, December 18.

We’ve all had unexpected financial needs, i.e. health, education, disaster relief, and declining resources. The Christmas Joy Offering allows the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to offer vital ministries to church **workers and their families.** **Let’s be generous with our gift for those who have so faithfully served our church.**



December Events



Tree County Players Presents

That 70's Christmas Revue

December 2nd & 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Decatur County School Admin. Building—2020 N. Montgomery Rd.



Christmas Model Railroad Display

First Presbyterian Church

Friday, Dec. 9 from 4 – 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 from 1 – 5 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Downtown Holiday Walk



December 10th from 9am-7pm

Santa, Trains, Trolley, Live Reindeer,
Parade, Winter Market, and more Santa

The Historical Society's annual Christmas Open House is Sunday afternoon, December 11th, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Museum. Join us to celebrate the season on **Indiana's Bicentennial Statehood Day!**

FaithPoints Church

814 W. Sheridan St. P O Box 282
Greensburg, IN 47240

Presents

An evening of Celtic Christmas music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th at 6:00 P.M.



My Christmas Wish To YOU

By Catherine Pulsifer

If I could wish a wish for you,
it would be for peace, faith, and happiness
not only at Christmas,
but for the whole year through!

I wish that there always be food on your table.
That you always give to those less fortunate.
May you always take time to share,
and thank those who have blessed you.

I wish for time, so you may reflect
on the blessings that you have,
and that you express your love
to those who are dear to you.

I wish that you never feel lonely,
because there are those who care.
That you realize: you are special,
you are unique, you make a difference,
not only at Christmas, but all year!

I wish for your thoughts to be positive ones,
that you never quit, that you never give up,
and that you continue to learn.

I wish for the love, and peace of God,
to be yours always.



Presbyterian Gifts of Faith

Throughout the year the Presbyterian Giving Catalog offers suggestions for giving to support ministries that provide water, hope, refuge support and youth. During December, an **Overflowing Generosity** poster is on the kiosk. When you make a gift to any of the 40 items listed in the catalog you can put a sticker on the poster. Suggestions for giving are:

Jerry's Can - \$20.00 for people around the world who lack access to clean water.

Garden Well - \$50.00 for a well and hand pumps to provide clean water for drinking, bathing, washing and irrigation for an entire community.

Rainwater Catchment System - \$75.00 for collecting, storing and proper filtering of Rainwater for irrigation and washing.

Gifts of any size are welcome. Please indicate on your check or envelope that your gift is for Overflowing Generosity.



Thank You!

For several years we have been blessed by Matt and Gia Westhafer's cooking of the Annual Family Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we had many volunteers who assisted in carrying on this tradition in honor of **them. Because of everyone's committed efforts and thanks to the** people who came for dinner, we raised \$615 in free-will donations that has been sent to the American Cancer Society– Relay for Life of Decatur County in honor of Gia Westhafer.

Thank you to the following who assisted with dinner:

Susan Wilson, Marilyn Woods, Linda Simpson, Kathy Denny, Chris Chapman, Jean Stutz, Friendship & Talent, Marilyn Millis, Larry Clark, Mike Baumgartner, Carey Anne LaSor, Anne Westhafer, Diana Blanford, Doreen Wilkison, Katy Prairie, Darleen Fox, and a special thanks to the Youth Group.

Blessings, Reneé McClintic

Session News

- * Session has called a **Congregational meeting** on December 11th following worship services for the purpose of electing Elders.
- * Session has called a **Congregational meeting** on December 18th following worship services to receive the report of the **pastoral nominating committee**.
- * We welcome Anthony Adams as the new custodian beginning December 12.
- * December Session meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20th at 5:30 p.m. (new time). Starting in January and throughout 2017, Session Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. (Please take special note of the new day and time.)
- * We will hold a **Candlelight Service** on **December 24th** (Christmas Eve) with services starting at **7:30 p.m.**
- * There will be **NO** Sunday worship service on Christmas Day so you may enjoy Christmas with your families.

Church News

- * There will not be a pitch-in dinner after worship services in December.
- * **Family Faith Night** will be caroling on Wednesday, December 14th for the final meeting before Christmas break. They will resume on Wednesday, January 11th.



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Mike Gommel

Not too long ago the Library Committee made a plea for donations to the Library. Although the **Spiritual Education Committee's** yearly budget includes money for the library, unexpected expenses (the roof over the Education Wing) have made us all reluctant to spend too much. The response to our plea resulted in over twenty **books and DVD's**. We are so grateful for your generosity. The coming year will find the committee trying to expand our selection for children and teens. Hopefully, we will use our budget wisely, and your continued donations will help a great deal. Again, God bless you for your generosity.

Day of Caring Wrap-up

The results of our first Day of Caring have been tallied and we thought you would like to know what we learned.

Volunteers - 59 (36 members, 1 affiliate member, 2 non-members, and 20 youth) Allowing for members in assisted living, college and traveling – 50% of the membership participated. Approx. 176+ volunteer hours: adults 114; youth 62. Value of the volunteer hours @ \$10.00 per hr. = \$1,760+

Evaluations - from 14 volunteers were positive.

* **What did you like best about your Day of Caring experience?**

Teamwork and fellowship with other members and friends.
Fellowship breakfast and prayers to send us on our way.
Quickness of work done
Providing help to deserving organization
Doing something with hands that made a difference
Practicing what we preach and taking the word out into the community

* **Share something you experienced that made the day meaningful to you.**

Response of members giving
Smiles and appreciation of recipients of help
Amazed at amount of food donated by community
All the younger children and teens who showed up to work

Giving cookies and expression of gratitude to community service people

* **What would you change or improve about Day of Caring?**

More than one Day of Caring a year
Help with spring cleanup around the Square
A Day of Caring to clean up church inside and out
Designate groups of youth to help with physical work

* **What organizations do you recommend we contact for next year?**

Same as this year, YMCA, Nursing homes; hospital, TLC, Any organization that needs help.

* **Would you participate next year?** 12 Yes

* **Interested in helping the organization committee for next year?**

7 Yes, 2 No, Some cannot make commitment now

The Mission & Outreach Committee is thankful for the support of the members for our first Day of Caring. But there is so much more we can do. We can observe areas of need in our community whether for an organization or an individual who needs a helping hand.

After the first of the year, we will begin planning for the second annual Day of Caring. When asked, please respond willingly to serve on the planning committee. A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with planning and to all who participated. Invite a friend to share the experience next year

First Presbyterian Church

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Greensburg, IN 47240

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E-mail: fpcgburg@etczone.com

Web: www.fpcgburg.org



Seeking to Live God's Word



PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Shut-ins

Aspen Place, 2320 N. Montgomery Rd., Greensburg, IN

Anna Clemenz— Room 405A

Bill Baumgartner— Room 110,

Charles Gilliland— Room 407

Florence Shelp— Rm. 101

Hazel Shonk

At Home, 1029 E. Tara Rd.,
Greensburg, IN

Rocky and Barb Blare

At home, 207 Orchard Drive,
Greensburg, IN

Gary Miller

At home, 1805 N. Tyrel Ave. East
Greensburg, IN 47240



Prayer List

YOUR PRAYERS DO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!

Gia Westhafer

Steve Westhafer

Rocky Blare

The Wilson Family

Shirley Clark

Pat Rooker's Daughter & Son-in-law

Michael Yarmuth

Joe Rust

Brenda Oldham

Iris Scheibler

Travis Blanford and family

Carolyn Adkins

Claude and Dottie Bilbrey

Steve Gookins

Patti Wenning Barbara Sterchi

Pat Martin



Family Thanksgiving Dinner



A lot of work goes into preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner. These are just a few of the actual helpers that we had helping that day. A special Thank You to Renee for organizing this event.

